

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Previously presented): A bioreactor method of processing a fluent biomass involving direct discharge of a waste sludge and withdrawal of a cleansed effluent by membrane filtration, comprising the steps of providing an internally divided tank having a volumetrically large chamber within which the fluent biomass is biologically treated and a volumetrically small chamber within which said membrane filtration is performed; lowering contamination of a separated portion of the biologically treated fluent biomass recycled from the large chamber of the tank into the small chamber of the tank by performing said membrane filtration in the small chamber of the tank; and effecting said withdrawal from the small chamber as the cleansed effluent said portion of the wastewater after undergoing said membrane filtration.

Claim 2. (Original) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said step of lowering the contamination is performed outside the tank by centrifugation.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 2, wherein said step of withdrawing the cleansed effluent is interrupted under selective control, while the waste sludge is undergoing direct discharge in by-pass relation to the small chamber.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said step of withdrawing the cleansed effluent is interrupted under selective control, while the waste sludge is undergoing direct discharge in by-pass relation to the small chamber.

Claim 5. (Original) The method as defined in claim 4, wherein the fluent biomass is wastewater having bacteria and a concentration of solids therein establishing said contamination that is lowered within said portion thereof undergoing said membrane filtration.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Cancelled).